

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A movable sinker apparatus of a weft knitting machine having front and rear needle beds opposed to each other with a needle bed gap interposed therebetween, the movable sinker apparatus comprising:

sinkers arranged next to knitting needles,  
a knitting fabric being knitted by an interaction with knitting needles by applying a force of a spring so as to press down front end portions of the sinkers, and base portions of the sinkers being supported in a swingingly displaceable manner on the needle beds in the vicinity of the needle bed gap, and recessed portions for retaining and pressing down a knitting yarn of a previous loop that has been knitted being formed as knitting yarn receiving portions on front end portions of the sinkers moving forward into the needle bed gap,

wherein the front end portion of the sinker has a shape of an arm extending to a lower portion of the needle bed gap in a circumferential direction with a substantially constant radius from the base portion,

wherein on a portion closer to the front ends from a knitting yarn receiving portions on the arm are formed protruding portions that project outward in radial directions of swinging displacements,

when the protruding portions are on a straight line linking between centers of swinging displacements of the base

portions that are supported by the needle beds, the protruding portions of the sinkers are positioned closest toward the needle beds opposed thereto, and inclined faces inclined toward inner sides in the radial direction are respectively formed on the front end side and on the base portion side in the circumferential direction, and

wherein the protruding portions of the sinkers provided on the needle beds that are opposed to each other pull down a knitting fabric in a lower portion of the needle bed gap, sandwiching the fabric therebetween.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)